

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9725

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, BL

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN PESTICIDES PLANT

REF: STATE 36561

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES PROMPT ACTION BY USDOC IN FOLLOWING UP ON OUR REQUEST RE SUBJECT PROJECT. EMBASSY REGRETS US COMPANIES NOT INTERESTED IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY VIA LICENSING. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH MINISTRY OF ENERGY OFFICIAL, IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY OF AQUILA EVENTUALLY ACCEPTING JOINT VENTURE. FIRST BOLIVIAN POLICY MUST BE CLARIFIED ON SUBJECT AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES (YPFB, MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINISTRY OF PLANNING) AND THEN, IF FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IS ACCEPTED, BOLIVIANS WILL APPROACH ARGENTINIAN PARTNERS IN AQUILA.

2. FOR THE MOMENT IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT AQUILA WILL BE INTERESTED IN PRODUCING DIFFERENT KIND OF PESTICIDE. WHEN AQUILA HAS MADE A DECISION RE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION, EMBASSY WILL INFORM WASHINGTON AND PERHAPS REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF ITS GOOD OFFICES IN ENCOURAGING JOING VENTURE WITH AQUILA.

4. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES NEGATIVE IMPACT ON BOLIVIA AND ANDEAN COMMON MARKET IF ONE OF FIRST OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WINDS UP INVOLVING RUSSIAN TECHNOLOGY AS SEEMS TO BE LIKELY IF US COMPANIES DO NOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. AQUILA HAS OFFER FROM USSR RE SUPPLY OF PESTICIDE TECHNOLOGY. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THE USSR HAS OBTAINED A LONG TERM PRESENCE IN BOLIVIA'S MINERALS

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SECTOR THROUGH ITS PROVISION OF TIN VOLITIZATION TECHNOLOGY, AND

A PESTICIDES ARRANGEMENT COULD ALLOW THE SOVIETS AN ENTRY INTO
INVOLVEMENT WITH BOLIVIA'S PETROLEUM AND PETROCHEMICALS SECTORS.
STEDMAN

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